

# EASTER HAZARDS

The Easter holiday is a great time to spend with family, however, it can pose some potential hazards to our beloved pets.

## Chocolate & Candy

Chocolate (especially dark & bakers chocolate) is toxic to pets. Candies containing artificial sweeteners, like xylitol, are also harmful and can be fatal. Even the wrappers from these treats can be alluring and lead to gastrointestinal (GI) problems. Make sure to keep chocolate and candy out of paws' reach!

## Plastic Grass or Ribbon

While these items are festive, they too often end up in the mouth of a curious cat or dog. An ingested linear object can act like a knife against the delicate tissues of the GI tract. Store these items away from pets and pick scraps up off the ground.

## Guests

Remember that not everyone is pet savvy, nor are their belongings pet-safe. When you share the holiday with friends and family, make sure guests know not to feed pets from the table and not to let pets outside unsupervised. A purse or bag brought in by a guest might contain chocolate, sugarless gum or even prescription medications that your pet should not get into! Have specific areas for your guests' belongings to keep your pet as safe as possible.

## Plants & Shrubs

Take precautions with some common springtime favorites like lilies, tulips, daffodils, azaleas and rhododendrons. Poisoning experiences can range from relatively minor GI upset to changes in cardiac and respiratory function and in some cases, can even be fatal.

## Live Animals

While a bunny, duckling or small chick may provide short-term entertainment, these animals have specialized needs for their diet and housing; particularly as they grow larger. Any animal kept as a pet is a commitment - they shouldn't be an impulse buy or a gift sprung on unsuspecting family.

## Small Toys

New trinkets and toys are a great alternative to chocolate and candy for those feeling more health-conscious, but represent a significant choking risk for pets.



**VetMED**  
EMERGENCY & SPECIALTY CARE

20612 N. Cave Creek Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85024  
(602) 697-4694 | [vetmedaz.com](http://vetmedaz.com)